



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Masumi Sakai  
Serial No.: 09/779,125  
Filed: February 7, 2001  
For: FURNACE-TYPE  
ATOMIC ABSORPTION  
SPECTROPHOTOMETER  
Group Art Unit: 2872  
Examiner: A.C. Lavarias  
Attorney Docket: 0800239.0129 (old)  
SMDZ P106 (new)

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

Date of Deposit: September 3, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown above, being:

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9/11/03

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "B"**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated March 6, 2003 in the above-referenced application, applicant is submitting a Request for Continued Examiner (RCE) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1,114 simultaneously herewith, together with a fee for said RCE and also a petition for extension of time to extend the time to respond to said Final Office Action by three months to September 6, 2003 as well as an extension fee therefor. The instant PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT is being filed as the "submission" related to said RCE in which the application is amended as follows:

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